UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/1201
18 December 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 18 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 17 December 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in connection with the missile and bombing strikes against Iraq.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the
United Nations

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Annex

Statement issued on 17 December 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

News of the missile and bombing strikes against Iraq by the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was received in Kazakhstan with deep regret and concern. The use of military force against Iraq without taking into account the views of an overwhelming majority of the world community has given rise to a new spiral in the escalation of tension in the Middle East region and has exacerbated the international situation as a whole.

At the same time, Kazakhstan's position is based on the need for complete compliance by Iraq with its obligations under Security Council resolutions and the Memorandum of Understanding of 23 February 1998 between Iraq and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Kazakhstan advocates the convening of a special meeting of the Security Council in order to seek ways to resolve the situation that has arisen.